

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SMITHSONIAN ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act to further ensure that the Smithsonian Institution is accountable to the public for the taxpayer funds it receives. This bill provides that, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, and the Privacy Act, the Smithsonian shall be considered a federal agency.

This bill was introduced in the Senate in 2008, and I saw it then and now as complementing my Smithsonian Modernization Act and my Smithsonian Free Admission Act. I introduce this bill today along with the other two because its purpose, like those, is to make the Smithsonian accountable for the 70 percent of its funding that comes from annual federal appropriations. Although the Smithsonian was created by Congress as a federal trust, it receives the great majority of its funding from the federal government, much like federal agencies, and had always been treated as a federal agency. However, in the 1990s, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that the Smithsonian is not a federal agency for purposes of FOIA and the Privacy Act. Indeed, the Smithsonian's website clearly states that it is "not an Executive Branch agency, and FOIA does not apply to the Smithsonian."

The lack of transparency is of great concern, particularly in light of the Smithsonian's recent history of secrecy and corruption. In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Smithsonian Board had violated many principles of good management during the tenure of Lawrence Small as Secretary of the Smithsonian. The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight, had overcompensated the Secretary, and had allowed the creation of an "insular culture." The report further found that the Smithsonian's deputy secretary and chief operating officer had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than \$1.2 million in six years. Importantly, the report indicated that Smithsonian leaders took great measures to keep secret these missteps and mismanagements.

While the Smithsonian now has new leadership that is moving away from the mistakes of the past, its transparency should not depend on who is in charge. A federally supported entity must be accountable to the American people. The American people have a right to know that their interests are being served.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

## HONORING 19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEGISLATORS OF TEXAS

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and voice my support for a new monument that will be unveiled at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas, on March 30, 2010, to commemorate the state's African-American legislators of the 19th century.

This monument will serve as a reminder to all Texans of the role that African Americans have played in Texas political history and give credence to the first steps that these legislators made for the black community in the state. There were 52 African-American men who served in either the Texas legislature or were Constitutional Convention delegates during the last half of the 19th century, and while their time in office may have been short, their impacts can still be felt today.

I often reflect on the endurance and tenacity of these men who served a disenfranchised community during a politically volatile time in Texas history. They truly were political pioneers entering a system of government for the first time and working diligently to ensure a future for all African Americans and Texans. This work is not lightly forgotten, and that is why this monument is so important for people across the state and all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me today in remembering the 19th century African-American legislators of Texas and to honor them by supporting this monument that will help Texans understand the work and sacrifices of these great legislators.

## HONORING LEWIS F. GOULD, JR.

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lewis F. "Lew" Gould Jr. for his longstanding selfless and passionate service to Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County.

As a four-term Lower Merion Township Commissioner, Lew has been a leading voice for fiscal responsibility and sound stewardship of community resources. He has earned the respect of his colleagues for his frankness and his willingness to mentor younger community leaders on the duties and responsibilities associated with governing the largest municipality in the 6th Congressional District.

Lew's efforts have earned him the 2010 Service Award from the Republican Committee of Lower Merion and Narberth. The

award will be presented during the Committee's annual Lincoln Day Dinner at the Merion Tribute House in Merion Station, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in extending our deepest appreciation to Lewis F. "Lew" Gould Jr. for his exemplary leadership, civic engagement and dedication to making Lower Merion Township a great place to live, work and raise a family.

## CONGRATULATING THOMAS THAYER FOR RECEIVING THE INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Thomas Thayer, the owner of International Truck Sales of Richmond, for his receiving of the International Circle of Excellence Award.

Tom's business, International Truck Sales of Richmond, is headquartered in Ashland, Virginia, where it was founded in 1998. Under his leadership, it has grown into one of the pre-eminent truck dealerships in the Southeast and the entire nation, with 109 employees and three dealer locations serving Richmond and its surrounding counties. In 2005, it was named the International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to the one International dealer who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer service. With this most recent award, International Truck Sales of Richmond has now received the Circle of Excellence Award under Tom's leadership a total of 13 times.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the international dealer organization, Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction.

Tom has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He has also built a successful truck leasing business, Idealease of Richmond, is the current chairman of the Truck Renting and Leasing Association, and is the past chairman of the Make a Wish Foundation. He is also involved with the Rotary Club, the United Way and the American Cancer Society. Despite all these activities, he still finds time to work the concession stand at James River High School on Friday nights, and serves as a band booster for his son, Robert, and his daughter, Leah.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask you

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